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LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The members of the Security Council will recall that I indicated in my reports (S/26090 and S/26360) that the Military Component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was scheduled to complete its withdrawal from Cambodia by 15 November 1993. The Security Council, in resolution 860 (1993), approved the UNTAC withdrawal plan and decided that, in order to ensure a safe and an orderly withdrawal of the military component of UNTAC, the period of such withdrawal would end on 15 November 1993.

The Officer-in-Charge of the withdrawal of UNTAC has now reported that, as withdrawal has progressed in accordance with the plan, security conditions in the country have deteriorated, and incidence of theft of UNTAC vehicles and other property, often by armed elements, has increased. UNTAC has further pointed out that, in the next stage of withdrawal, equipment will need to be retrieved from outlying areas following the departure of military personnel, which could expose UNTAC civilian staff concerned to heightened insecurity.

In these circumstances, the Officer-in-Charge has urgently requested the extension of deployment beyond 15 November of the following categories of UNTAC military personnel:

(a) Military Police

- 71 Military Police Officers between 16 and 30 November 1993;

- 30 Military Police Officers between 1 and 31 December 1993;

(b) Medical Unit

- 10 members between 16 November and 7 December 1993;

- 8 members between 8 and 31 December 1993.

It is my belief that these limited extensions are necessary in order to ensure the safety and security of UNTAC personnel and its equipment as they complete the withdrawal. I therefore request that this matter be brought to the attention of the members of the Council.

The members of the Council will also recall that I indicated in my report (S/26360) that mine clearance will continue to be a major need in the post-conflict peace-building in Cambodia. I also indicated that the United Nations Trust Fund for Demining in Cambodia would be maintained, and that continued United Nations involvement with demining activities would be required for the foreseeable future.

I believe that further United Nations involvement in the executive and managerial responsibilities of CMAC is inappropriate. However, continued technical support and capacity-building will be required to enable CMAC to become self-sufficient. I have therefore asked UNDP to enter into consultations with the new Cambodian Government with a view to providing technical support and capacity-building as required for a limited duration.

Pending such arrangements and in order to avert a damaging break in this important activity, I propose to extend the deployment of 17 existing members of the Mine Clearance and Training Unit of UNTAC until 30 November 1993. I request that this matter also be brought to the attention of the Council members.

Financial implications of the proposed extensions will be reflected in the next performance report on UNTAC.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI